Dalit Hindus of Sindh Region in Pakistan

†*497. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the standard of living of backward Hindus in the Sindh region of Pakistan is below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether any Non-Government Organization of Pakistan has carried out any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made to improve the condition of backward Hindus by Government of India after negotiating with Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. There are reports of Pakistan's Hindu citizens in areas of Sindh, Pakistan, living in conditions of economic insecurity and hardship.

(b) Yes, Sir. There have been studies by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on this subject.

(c) Government is aware of these reports.

Decline in the profit of MTNL

*498. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL has reported 36.5 per cent decline in its profits during the third quarter ended December, 2005;

(b) if so, the details alongwith reasons thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Government to control further decline in profits?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Sir, as per the provisional unaudited results, the net profit during the third quarter ended December, 2005 is Rs. 127.03 crores as against Rs. 190.39 crores in the corresponding period of previous year.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.